

# W. C. T. U. Column.



Through the courtesy of the Registrar this space is granted to the W. C. T. U. It is edited by MARY J. FRANCIS, Local Press Superintendent, as appointed by the State Organizer, Mrs. L. LaMance.

W. C. T. U. WATCHWORDS: ORGANIZE! EDUCATE! AGITATE!

W. C. T. U. PRINCIPLES: Total Abstinence; Prohibition of the Liquor Traffic; One Standard of Morals for Men and Women; Home Protection; Equal Suffrage; and the Teaching of Scientific Temperance in Public Schools.

## Dazing the Temperance People.

Less than a year ago the President of the Kentucky State League wrote: "The end of the world is in sight, so far as the liquor business is concerned, unless we get together." Now the liquor dealers are constantly declaring that the danger has passed and a reaction has begun. They have not only gotten together, but have marshalled "allied trades" in a great organization for defensive and offensive purposes.

"Thus far" says an official of the Federation, "the American citizen has had only one side of the liquor question placed before him. We are now to give him the other side. . . . We are going to fight North, South, East and West. The prohibition forces have had matters too long their own way. Now we are going to start a fight that will daze some of our opponents by its scope." In fulfillment of this purpose, publicity bureaus for the liquor interests have been opened, with magnificent headquarters, well equipped with secretaries and stenographers, and they are sending out tons of anti-prohibition literature, books, leaflets, letters containing plausible statistics and arguments favorable to the liquor habit and the liquor traffic. This literature is most subtle and fallacious. It is filled with garbled statistics and deceptive arguments. It makes its appeal to the lowest and most mercenary motives of the humane heart, but it is attractively printed and cunningly used, and some of it is calculated to deceive the very elect.

It really does "daze" one to read in one circular that Lincoln was a bartender, and in another that Henry Ward Beecher drank beer and invited men to drink with him, and in another that this or that scientist or government official, or great preacher, or religious paper, has declared against prohibition. But we do not feel inclined to be scared. This unusual activity and bitterness is only a sign that the liquor men are scared and are desperate. The people see through their tactics, and will soon cease to believe aught that appears in their circulars.—Herald and Presbyterian.

## Enforce the Law.

Liquor papers in various sections are adopting a peculiar line of argument. They affirm that prohibition is not and can not be enforced. Therefore it is a dangerous thing, in that it begets lawlessness, and that in the violation of the law there is far more danger to the State and the community than there is in the mere act of dispensing liquors to one or to a dozen individuals. Hon. Seaborn Wright answers this argument. He says: "There is no more dangerous, deadly idea that can possess the people than that the violation of a law by the criminal element demands its repeal. The logical result of this idea is absolute surrender to the lawless, criminal part of any country. If the prohibition law is violated, what element of the people are violating it? Men who violate law are criminals, I care not their station or condition in life.

"If the prohibition law is to be repealed because criminals violate it, how about our laws against gambling, or pistol-toting, or adultery?"

The great overshadowing danger to our country to-day is the idea that the personal liberty of men to sell liquor in violation of law is higher than the law.

"It is folly to urge the enforcement of the law and in the next sentence say in effect to the criminal element, 'If you can hold out in your violation of the law, it will be repealed.' Intelligent men must understand, regardless of their position on the liquor question, that the people cannot afford to yield one inch to the criminal classes."—Herald and Presbyterian.

## Deathbed Repentance.

We have little sympathy with the reports of professed conversion of a criminal on a scaffold. They differ from the account of the dying thief, which stands unique. Two or three masterly strokes put the picture before us in

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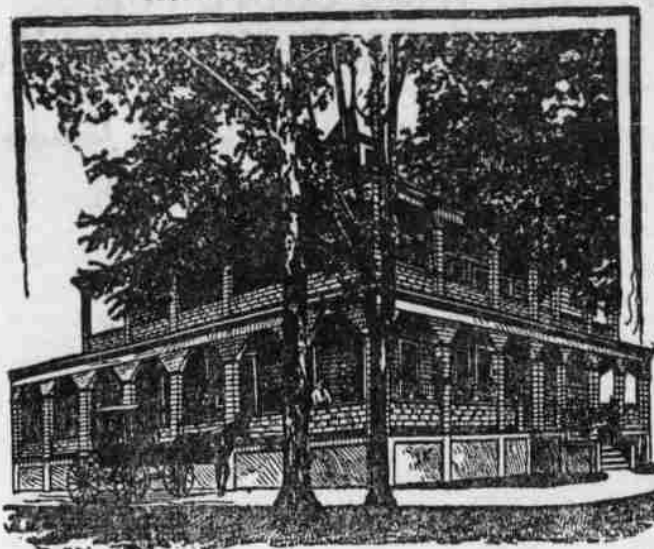
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